

STATE BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite S-202, Sacramento, CA 95834

P (916) 574-7825 F (916) 574-8619 | www.guidedogboard.ca.gov



MINUTES

State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind
BOARD MEETING
June 9, 2008

Location: Guide Dogs of America
13445 Glenoaks Boulevard
Sylmar, CA 91342

Board Members Present

Jeff Neidich, President
Tony Candela
Tom Scott, Vice-President

Board Staff Present

Antonette Sorrick, Executive Officer
Albert Balingit, Staff Legal Counsel
Susan Cox, Executive Assistant

Guests

Sherrill Neidich
Cindy Kanemoto, DCA Strategic Development Division
Tanela Bryant, Strategic Organization, Leadership & Individual Development (SOLID)
Kristine Grangaard, Strategic Organization, Leadership & Individual Development (SOLID)
Andi Krusoe, Guide Dogs of America
Nelly Emerson, Consumer
Pat LaFrance Wolfe, Guide Dog Users of California
Curt Bergeron, Guide Dogs of the Desert International
Chuck Jordon, Guide Dogs of America
Gary Downs, Guide Dogs of the Desert International
Bob Wendler, Guide Dogs of the Desert International

1. Call to Order

President Neidich called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and welcomed the attendees. Tony Candela acted as Secretary and took roll call. A quorum was not present. The three Board Members present made up a Committee of the Whole.

2. President's Welcome

President Neidich welcomed the attendees and turned the meeting over to Cindy Kanemoto, Tanela Bryant and Kristine Grangaard, from the Strategic Organization, Leadership and Individual Development Unit (SOLID) of DCA to commence the Strategic Planning session.

3. Strategic Planning

See attached Strategic Planning session notes.

The Committee of the Whole returned to session at 1:15 PM

4. Approval of March 21, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The Committee of the Whole made a recommendation to approve the draft minutes. Tony Candela recommended to changing "California Council for the Blind" to California Council of the Blind.

Vote: President Neidich made the motion that the meeting minutes of March 21, 2008, be adopted as amended. Tom Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5. Election of Officers

The election of officers was tabled to when a quorum of the Board was present.

6. Legislative, Regulatory and Statutory Committee Report

Jeff Neidich assigned himself to replace Judy Karau on the Legislative and Regulatory and Statutory Committee.

a. AB 2276 (Assembly Member Fuentes)

This bill would make the Board inoperative on July 1, 2016, and would repeal it on January 1, 2017. A call was placed to the Author's office and staff expressed that bill was intended as a placeholder bill. The last action date on AB 2276 was March 5, 2008, which consisted of a referral to the Committee on Business and Professions.

Committee Recommendation: None. There was no Committee recommendation on this because the bill is inactive.

Committee of the Whole Vote: None.

b. SB 963 (Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas)

This very lengthy bill was intended to address the sunset provisions for the regulatory boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). One of the provisions of this bill is the creation of the Office of the Consumer Advocate within the DCA.

Committee Recommendation: None. There was no Committee recommendation on this because the bill is inactive. *

Committee of the Whole Vote: None.

c. SB 1174 (Senator Lowenthal)

This bill would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to convene a quiet motorized Road Vehicle and Safety Mobility Committee comprised of representatives from specified entities to research, identify, and make recommendations to the commission on strategies to ensure that motor vehicles, regardless of engine type or configuration, emit sound sufficient to be heard and localized by pedestrians who are blind or visually impaired. The commission, on or before January 1, 2010, would be required to submit a report to the Legislature on the recommendations from the committee. The commission would be required to implement these requirements using moneys from non-general fund revenue sources. This bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a vote of (16- ayes, 0- noes)

Committee Recommendation: Support SB 1174.

Committee of the Whole Vote: Support.

d. AB 1869 (Assembly Member Anderson)

This bill would convert several boards and commissions into bureaus within the DCA. The bill failed passage out of Committee and is now inactive.

Committee Recommendation: None. No action was taken because the bill is inactive.

Committee of Whole Vote: None.

e. H.R. 5734 (Representative Towns, Edolphus – NY-10)

The Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act of 2008. This bill is co-sponsored by American Council of the Blind. H.R. 5734 directs the Secretary of Transportation to study and establish a motor vehicle safety standard that provides for a means of alerting blind and other pedestrians of motor vehicle operation.

Committee Recommendation: Support H.R. 5734.

Committee of the Whole Vote: President Neidich made the motion that the Committee of the Board support the Legislative, Regulatory and Statutory Committee's recommendation on the bills. Tom Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed.

f. Task Force Proposal to be Led By EO and Joined Via Phone by Instructors from the Three Guide Dog Schools

Committee Recommendation: To have the Executive Officer convene a task force to review current regulations with the schools and staff. The task force is to meet quarterly via telephone to look at statutes and regulations that need to be updated.

Committee of the Whole Vote: President Neidich made the motion for the recommendation that Executive Officer to convene the recommended task force. Tony Candela seconded the motion. The motion passed.

g. Title 19, Division 22, Title 4, Section, 2286

Section 2286 of the Guide Dog Board regulations prescribes that the guide dog mobility instructors use either 8 hours of course or seminar work OR, 16 hours of attendance at guide dog user organization meetings or meetings of organizations of the blind. This may discourage instructors from a combination of participation in both.

Committee Recommendation: Table the draft changes to the regulation until the EO can get stakeholder input and have the Committee meet and discuss again before the September meeting.

Committee of the Whole Vote: President Neidich made the motion to support the committee's recommendation that this issue be tabled until the Executive Officer and the task force addresses the CE issue. Tony Candela seconded the motion. Motion passed.

7. The Outreach and Education Committee Report

The mission of this committee is to actively participate in events and to speak to various stakeholders. Tony Candela reported that he attended the Guide Dog Users of California (GDUC) meeting and luncheon on April 12, 2008. He gave a brief overview of the Guide Dog Board (Board) to GDUC. GDUC affirmed that they wanted the Board to explore more with our stakeholders groups regarding the service animal industry.

a. Newsletter

President Neidich reported that the board expressed agreement with Guide Dogs for the Blind and Guide Dogs of the Desert for ongoing space in their newsletter. The Board submitted articles to both schools for inclusion in the school newsletters. Articles will also be in the next Department of Consumer Affairs (Department) newsletter *Consumer Connection* and the Department internal publication *Did You Know*.

b. Web Site Update

The Executive Officer reported that the Board's new IP address is www.guidedogboard.ca.gov. A new list serve was developed for physical and electronic communication enable the Board to communicate with its stakeholders.

8. Statutory and Regulatory Subcommittee - School Renewal Fee Proposals

The committee recommended the following:

- a. Through legislative means, the Board change Business and Professions Code Section 7200.7 to read (changes in *italics*):

"A fee equal to *no more than 0.005* of all school expenses incurred in the most recently concluded school calendar year, as specified in the audit required under Section 7217, shall be paid for renewal of a school's license pursuant to Section 7200.5. *The exact percentage shall be defined through regulation.* All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the Guide Dogs for the Blind Fund, which is hereby created."

- b. By Regulation, California Code of Regulation, Title 16, Division 22, Article 2, Section 2268.4 will be added to read:

"A fee equal to .00425 of all school expenses incurred in the most recently concluded school calendar year, as specified in the annually required audit (per Code Section 7217) shall be paid for renewal of a school's license."

Committee of the Whole Vote: President Neidich made the motion to adopt the Committee's recommendation. Tom Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed.

9. Regulatory Hearing

Albert Balingit defined Sections 2274, 2277, and 2250. Albert opened the regulatory hearing with the reading of the hearing process for public comment or oral testimony. No public comment was given.

The hearing started at 2:00 PM and ended at 2:04 PM

10. Executive Officer Report – Antonette Sorrick

- a. **Outreach Report** - On April 11, 2008, Antonette attended the CCB Spring Convention and on April 12, 2008, Antonette attended the Guide Dogs for the Blind graduation ceremony in San Rafael.
- b. **Budget Report** - As of April 30, 2008, the Budget Report showed the unencumbered balance of \$2,462.00.
- c. **Guide Dog Day** - will be held on Tuesday, November 18, at the Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust Summit at the Westin LAX Hotel.
- d. **Exam Update** – Written Exam on Monday, July 14, 2008 and Practical/Oral Exam will be Tuesday, July 15, 2008.
- e. **School Inspection Update** – Antonette Sorrick and Jane Brackman conducted an inspection of Guide Dogs of America on April 18, 2008. The school passed inspection.
- f. **Web Site Update** – In March, 2008, the Board Web site received 5,113 total hits on, and in May, 2008, the site received 33,043 total hits.
- g. **Toll Free Number** – Has been evaluated for cost and maintenance. The new 800 number will be implemented in the next few months.
- h. **Wallet Licenses** - The Board provides certificates for licensure for all licensed instructors. Wallet licenses will begin distribution in the next few months.

i. **DCA Report** – Nothing new to report.

11. DCA Board/Bureau Conference (Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust Summit)

DCA boards and bureaus will coordinate their quarterly meetings the week of November 17, 2008. The event will be called, "The Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust Summit." On Tuesday, November 18, the Board meeting and Guide Dog Day will be conducted. Wednesday, November 19, will be reserved for plenary sessions and roundtable discussions.

12. Meeting Calendar and Location

Tentative: August 11, 12 or 13 in Sacramento, CA

September 25 - September 26 at the Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. campus in San Rafael, CA

Tuesday, November 18 at the Westin LAX, Los Angeles, CA

13. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

Tom Scott recommended that the Board have Standing Committee reports on the agenda.

14. Public Comment

Tom Scott commended Executive Officer, Antonette Sorrick and Executive Assistant, Susan Cox for their significant contributions to the Board and the excellent organization of the quarterly meetings.

Andi Krusoe commented on the growing concern regarding pet certification as service animals. Instructor Linda Hawes agreed with Ms. Krusoe's comment regarding this concern. The Board was asked how many calls it receives regarding service animals. The Executive Officer replied that daily calls were focused on this issue and that callers were directed to their city/county department or the ADA service line.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Antonette Sorrick